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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/730,090

12/09/2003

Jea-Woo Park

1572.1255

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7590

03/06/2006

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EXAMINER

BROUSSARD, COREY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 03/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/730,090

Applicant(s)

PARK, JEA-WOO

Examiner

Corey M. Broussard

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 9-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments, see After Final Amendment, filed 2/17/2006, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-6, 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the finality of the previous rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground of rejection is made in view of Takahama (PN 6,119,184) as modified by Naghi et al. (PN 5,547,399)

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: it appears the word "device" was incorrectly deleted from the claims in line 9. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahama (PN 6,119,184) in view of Naghi et al. (PN 5,547,399). With respect to claim 1, Takahama teaches a computer main body (1) having a first connection port to which electric power is supplied from outside the computer main body (see Fig. 5 clearly showing a power connection port, see also Figs. 9, 12, showing a connection to an external power supply); a docking station (2) having a second connection port to which

electric power is supplied from outside the docking station (see Fig. 5), wherein the docking station and the computer main body are electrically connected through a connector (3, 4); wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the docking station and the computer main body (see col 3, 46-50 teaching that the connection allows communication and col 7, 41-44 teaching that one device may supply power to the other that is lacking a power supply. It is well known that computers and their docking stations utilize DC power). Takahama lacks specific teaching of an AC/DC adapter having branched cables. Naghi teaches an AC/DC adapter (12) comprising: an adapter main body (24) converting AC power into DC power (col 3, 11-25); a DC power cable (14 and one of 32) connected to the adapter main body; a power supplying jack (16, 18, or 20) provided at an end of the DC power cable; a grounding cable (an other of 32 not used for the power cable) branched off from the DC power cable and forming a grounding path (the cable must provide an electrically neutral or return path connector to establish a working electrical circuit); a grounding jack (16, 18, or 20 not used as the power jack) provided at an end of the grounding cable. It would have been obvious to combine the docking system of Takahama with the power adapter of Naghi where the adapter provided independent connections to the computer and docking station for the benefit of providing power to two devices using a single adapter.

5. With respect to claim 2, Naghi teaches wherein the power supplying jack comprises: a power supplying terminal to supply DC power supplied through the DC power cable to an electronic device; and a first grounding terminal disposed

concentrically with and apart from the power supplying terminal (see col 3, 48-51, Fig. 1, 3, the inner and outer terminals as described and shown must be concentric), and the ground jack comprises a second grounding terminal having the same cross section and the same size as those of the first grounding terminal (the sockets may have the same configuration, in such a case the neutral terminal would be the same size).

6. With respect to claim 3, Takahama teaches a portable device (1) and docking station (2) wherein the docking station and the portable device are electrically connected through a connector (3, 4), wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the docking station and the computer main body (see col 3, 46-50 teaching that the connection allows communication and col 7, 41-44 teaching that one device may supply power to the other that is lacking a power supply. It is well known that computers and their docking stations utilize DC power). Takahama lacks specific teaching of an AC/DC adapter having branched cables. Naghi teaches a base (12) adapted to convert an AC power input into DC power (col 3, 11-25); a power cable (14, 32) connected to the base and termination at another end in a power supplying jack (34); a grounding cable (an other of 32 not used for the power cable) connected to the power cable and terminating at another end in a grounding jack (16, 18, or 20 not used as the power jack), and wherein the power supplying jack is connectable to one of the portable device and the docking station, and the grounding jack is connectable to the other one of the portable device and docking station to supply a ground path other than through the power supplying jack (the grounding jack must provide an electrically neutral or return path connector to establish a working electrical circuit). It would have

been obvious to combine the docking system of Takahama with the power adapter of Naghi where the adapter provided independent connections to the computer and docking station for the benefit of providing power to two devices using a single adapter.

7. With respect to claim 4, Naghi teaches wherein the power supplying jack includes a terminal for supplying DC power and a tubular grounding conductor coaxial with the terminal (see col 3, 48-51, Fig. 1, 3, the inner and outer terminals as described and shown must be coaxial).

8. With respect to claim 5, Naghi teaches wherein the grounding jack includes a tubular grounding conductor (the sockets 34 must provide a neutral connection or return path in order to complete the circuit and function).

9. With respect to claim 6, Naghi teaches wherein the power supplying jack and the grounding jack have the same dimensions (the sockets may have the same configuration, in such a case the neutral terminal would be the same size).

10. With respect to claim 9, Takahama teaches wherein first (1) and second (2) electrical devices are electrically connected through a connector (3, 4), and wherein the connector receives and sends data and DC power between the first and second electrical devices (see col 3, 46-50 teaching that the connection allows communication and col 7, 41-44 teaching that one device may supply power to the other that is lacking a power supply. It is well known that computers and their docking stations utilize DC power). Takahama lacks specific teaching of an AC/DC adapter having branched cables. Naghi teaches a base (12) adapted to convert an AC power input into DC power (col 3, 11-25); a power cable (14, 32) extending from the base unit and

terminating in a power supplying jack (34) so as to provide a power supply path and a first ground path (the sockets 34 provide positive and negative paths); and a grounding cable (an other of 32 not used for the power cable) splitting off from the power cable and terminating in a grounding jack (16, 18, or 20 not used as the power jack) so as to supply a second ground path other than the first ground path, wherein the power supplying jack is for connecting to the first electrical device and the grounding jack is for connecting to the second electrical device (see Fig. 3, col 4, 61-65). It would have been obvious to combine the docking system of Takahama with the power adapter of Naghi where the adapter provided independent connections to the computer and docking station for the benefit of providing power to two devices using a single adapter.

11. With respect to claim 10, Naghi teaches wherein the power supplying jack includes a terminal for supplying DC power and a tubular grounding conductor coaxial with the terminal (see col 3, 48-51, Fig. 1, 3, the inner and outer terminals as described and shown must be coaxial).

12. With respect to claim 11, Naghi teaches that the grounding jack includes a tubular grounding conductor (see Fig. 1, the conductors of 34 are tubular).

13. With respect to claim 12, Naghi teaches wherein the power supplying jack and the grounding jack have the same dimensions (the sockets may have the same configuration, in such a case the neutral terminal would be the same size).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

14. Claims 8 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

15. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The allowability resides in the overall structure of the device as recited in dependant apparatus claims 8 and 13 and at least in part, because claim 8 and 13 recite: "wherein the grounding jack has a grounding conductor and no power supply terminal".

The aforementioned limitations in combination with all remaining limitations of claims 3 and 9 respectively are believed to render said claims 8 and 13 and all claims dependent therefrom patentable over the art of record.

The closest reference to the present invention is believed to be Naghi et al (PN 5,547,399).

Naghi teaches wherein an AC/DC adapter has a power cable and a grounding cable branched off from said power cable that connects to a computer and docking station, but did not disclose "wherein the grounding jack has a grounding conductor and no power supply terminal".

***Conclusion***

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Potega (PN 6,634,896) teaching a conventional coaxial power



connector. Dalton (PN 6,152,778), Oyang et al. (PN 6.909.907), Acharya et al. (US Pub 2002/0180277), and Morisawa et al. (PN 5,836,783) teaching a single power supply similar to the one of the instant application connecting to multiple devices. "Sega CD User Manual" page 7 clearly demonstrating a specific application of Naghi (5,547,399) where a computer and docking station that normally use two independent power supplies when connected, would instead use the single power supply of Naghi.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey M. Broussard whose telephone number is 571 272 2799. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on 571 272 2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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